



# Lake Views

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3 - FALL 2021

LAKE VIEWS IS THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF LAKE COUNTY

## FALL: IN LOVE WITH LAKE COUNTY

From the North Chagrin Reservation in Willoughby Hills to Paine Falls Park in Leroy Township, it's time to fall in love with Lake County! With miles upon miles of carefully conserved trails and over 50 community parks and waterways, our county offers truly spectacular fall color so don't forget to take some time out to enjoy autumn here in Northeast Ohio.

Unfortunately, while we are all watching the leaves change color and fall, that also means it's time to get out our rakes and leaf blowers. We want to always be mindful of stormwater pollution so



remember, don't blow leaves to the curb or dump them at the banks of streams or near storm drains. And if you're dreading fall cleanup, consider leafing your rake aside and mulching your yard instead. Leaves are packed with nutrients and can make great fertilizer for your lawn.

Also, the Lake County Dog Warden would like to remind all pet owners it's time to purchase your dog license! The renewal period runs from December 1st to January 31st and per state law,

all dogs over the age of 3 months are required to be licensed annually. To purchase a license online, please visit [doglicenses.us/OH/Lake](https://doglicenses.us/OH/Lake) or for more information, go to [lakecountyohio.gov/dog-shelter/dog-license-information](https://lakecountyohio.gov/dog-shelter/dog-license-information) or call (440) 350-2640.

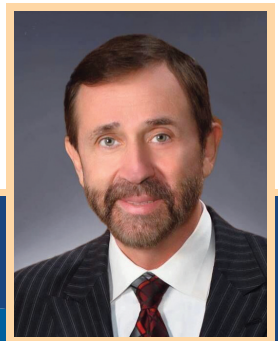
A quick reminder: All county offices will be closed Friday December 24th for the Christmas Holiday. The Board of Commissioners and staff extend best wishes to all for a safe and happy holiday season! ■



COMMISSIONER / President  
JOHN HAMERCHECK



COMMISSIONER  
JOHN PLECTNIK



COMMISSIONER  
RON YOUNG

## MOBILE FOOD PANTRY: SERVING LAKE COUNTY SENIORS

The Lake County Mobile Food Pantry is a mobile produce distribution effort spearheaded by Laketrans and the Board of Lake County Commissioners with the support of the Greater Cleveland Foodbank (GCFB), the Lake County Volunteer Network (formally RSVP), Lifeline, and the Council on Aging. Now scheduled to operate through the end of January 2022, the program has been distributing produce to seniors since its inception in April 2020, and has adapted

its operations to changing circumstances and resources.

In response to Ohio's six week stay-at-home order, Laketrans, with the help of community partners, served a total of 2,535 senior households. Produce was delivered along with shelf stable items purchased with funds from the Senior Services Levy and United Way Lake County. Following the stay-at-home order, the program continued with a

contactless drive-thru distribution at the Laketrans Mentor Park-n-Ride. To assist community partners, the GCFB had items boxed prior to distribution and served 450 seniors per week for an additional twelve weeks.

In January 2021, Laketrans retrofitted a retired Dial-a-Ride bus and re-branded it as the Lake County Mobile Food Pantry with vehicle graphics donated by

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# MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

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Avery Dennison. The bus traveled to two geographically placed locations each week to distribute fresh produce to participants. From January through August, the program served over 3,670 senior households. The Mobile Food Pantry will continue to distribute fresh produce items each Tuesday through January 2022 at the Laketran Mentor Park-n-Ride located at 8650 Market Street.

“This program has been a great partnership and a testament to how quickly we can come together to meet a need,” said Alyea Barajas, Senior Services Coordinator for the Board of Commissioners. “Each community agency plays a vital role to ensure the distribution runs smoothly.” More than 65 dedicated volunteers, most over the age of 60, contributed to the success of the program. “Rain, snow or extreme heat, the volunteers are on-site serving with a smile to make sure that seniors in need are receiving fresh produce in a safe and efficient manner,” said Cristen Kane, Volunteer Services Coordinator for the Lake County Volunteer Network.

For more information on the Lake County Mobile Food Pantry and to pre-register, contact Lifeline at 2-1-1 or the Council on Aging at 440-205-8111. Pre-registration is required and the program is intended for seniors who certify their annual gross income is at or below \$25,759 (1 person) or \$34,839 (2 person household). Income is self-declared and verification is not required. ■

# LAKE COUNTY EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Lake County Commissioners, along with the Planning and Community Development Department, secured \$6.8M of federal funding in the Summer of 2021 to help Lake County residents with rental issues during the COVID-19 pandemic. The new program is called the Lake County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (or ERAP 1.0). Maintaining housing stability is a worthy goal, especially in the current tight housing market. To help prevent the disruption to family life that displacement through an eviction can cause, renters and landlords may wish to take note of this new program launched on July 1st. Eligible costs under the grant include the payment of past due rent, current rent, and even future rent in three-month qualifying periods. Major utility costs such as electric, gas, water, and sewer are likewise eligible. A key qualifier for this ERAP 1.0 program is that the renter household has a hardship that is related to COVID-19.

Since July 1st, 75 households have been assisted using just over \$300,000 dollars. While that may sound like a lot, there is still more outreach work to be done to help those who have never before been in a position to need help like this. We know that residents rely on the stability of their current home to live a good life and so many landlords rely on the rental income generated in order to pay their living expenses as well. With the CDC Eviction Moratorium no longer in effect, it is necessary to work together to prevent the disruption that evictions ultimately bring. To best serve the general public, Lake County chose to work with Lifeline, Inc. and the Fair Housing Resource Center, Inc. to lead the implementation of this new fund. For decades, these skilled, local partner agencies have ensured residents obtain and preserve their housing. These agencies were the logical choice and Lake County government greatly appreciates their willingness to rise to the occasion to meet this and other needs during the pandemic.

Are you interested in choosing a path other than eviction? If so, you can learn more by calling (440) 392-0147 or call 2-1-1 when in Lake County. At the website FHRC.org, you can view program information or start an application and at [lclifeline.org](http://lclifeline.org), you can see the various services that Lifeline, Inc. has to offer. To help qualifying Veteran renter households access the funds, the Lake County Veteran Services Commission is administering a portion of the total award. You can call them at (440) 350-2904 for questions regarding this and other programs.

The U.S. Department of Treasury serves as the controlling federal agency and has listed in-depth information on their website; Emergency Rental Assistance Program | U.S. Department of the Treasury. These funds were made available from the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and must be used by September 30th, 2022. Of Lake County’s approximately 102,000 housing units, about 24,000 are rentals. Of those rental units, half would be income-eligible for this program. See table below for maximum qualifying income levels for our area. ■

FY 2021 Income Limit for the Cleveland -Elyria, OH Area	Persons in Family					
	1	2	3	4	5	6
80% Income Limits	44,050	50,350	56,650	<b>62,900</b>	67,950	73,000



# INTRODUCING THE WILLOUGHBY VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

Are you or someone you know a military veteran who is interested in helping others? Lake County is home to nearly 15,000 veterans.<sup>1</sup> Although veterans have served our country and earned the respect of all Americans, they are not exempt from involvement in the criminal justice system. Nearly 50 of these individuals will find their way into my courtroom each year. At the municipal court level, veterans face a variety of legal issues, ranging from OVI, theft, and drug possession, to crimes of violence such as assault and domestic violence. The Ohio Legislature has considered a veteran's involvement in the criminal justice system as military service, a factor Ohio courts are required to consider at the time of sentence.<sup>2</sup>

In my first year on the bench, we identified a need to provide veterans with services designed specifically for veterans who encounter the legal system. Providing specialized services for veterans is important to me, as I come from a family with a history of military service. This is a way for our community to recognize the sacrifice of the men and women who serve and provide support so that they can continue to be proud of the life they are living. A specialized docket affords veterans the opportunity to develop job skills, connect to VA services, engage in treatment, stabilize their living situations,

and reconnect with veteran peers.

The Veterans Treatment Court is a hybrid between a drug court and a mental health court. It uses a treatment problem-solving model rather than a traditional court model to assist veterans. Veterans are considered for the docket through a referral and eligibility screening including a clinical assessment from the VA. A veteran must plead guilty to the charge in order to participate and must voluntarily remain in the one-year long program. Participants of the program are required to sign an agreement that outlines expectations, in addition to consequences for noncompliance.

In 2021, the Willoughby Municipal Court received initial certification from the Ohio Supreme Court for its specialized veterans docket. The court joins 28 other specialized veteran dockets throughout Ohio and is the first specialized docket in Lake County that focuses exclusively on the unique needs of veterans. The program is currently open to veterans charged with a misdemeanor criminal offense in the Willoughby Municipal Court.

The specialized docket relies on support from the VA Northeast Ohio Healthcare System, the Lake County Veterans Service Commission, the Sub Zero Mission, and other local veteran service groups. I meet twice a month with program participants,

the veteran's justice outreach specialist, veteran mentor, probation coordinator, prosecutor, and defense counsel. The specialized docket differs from traditional probation, in that a veteran will communicate almost daily with their treatment team or mentor. Peer mentors help replicate the sense of comradery and accountability that is familiar to veterans from their time in the service.

The mentoring team is led by Al Raddatz and Tim Hickey of Sub Zero Mission. Sub Zero Mission is a local non-profit that delivers hats, coats, gloves, boots, and sleeping bags to the homeless in Lake County, with a specific focus on identifying homeless veterans. Mr. Raddatz and Mr. Hickey provide mentorship to veterans currently on the docket. Mentorship is critical to the success of veterans engaged in the criminal justice system.

*If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a veteran mentor, please contact docket coordinator Mark Shannon at [shannonm@willoughbycourt.com](mailto:shannonm@willoughbycourt.com) or (440) 953-4206. ■*



JUDGE MARISA L. CORNACHIO

## READY OR NOT, HERE IT COMES! LAKE COUNTY'S OUTDOOR SIREN SYSTEM

Have questions about the sirens you hear every quarter? It's the Emergency Alert Outdoor Siren System; an additional form of early notification from the Lake County Emergency Management Agency. This system was purchased, in partnership with the parent company of the Perry Nuclear Power Plant, as a warning system for the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zone (59 sirens) and was expanded by the Emergency Management Agency, with support from the Lake County Commissioners, to cover all of the remaining areas of Lake County (50 additional sirens).



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<sup>1</sup> Lake County Veteran's Service Commission statistic as provided by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs ("VA") for the year 2019. <sup>2</sup> 2929.12(F); 2929.22 (B)(1)(g)



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Board of Commissioners  
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## 2020 CENSUS

Every decade, the Census Bureau fulfills a constitutionally-mandated count of every person living in the United States. This constitutional mandate also provides rich demographic information on population, number of housing units, age, race, nationality, just to name a few. The data obtained from the decennial census is then used to determine the distribution of Congressional seats to the states, assist with planning decisions regarding community services, and distribute hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funds to local and state governments so funding can be allocated to neighborhood improvements, education, transportation, public health, and more.

They have released the population and housing units for Lake County and its communities and our population growth rate has remained consistent since the 2010 Census. Our current population is 232,603 reflecting in a 1.10 % increase or 2,562 people. We ranked 21st out of 88 counties in Ohio in percentage of population increase and 15th out of 88 in the number of people added to the population. According to Marc Perry, a senior demographer at the Census Bureau, around 52% of the

counties in the US saw their population decrease. Lake County was one of 33 counties in Ohio that actually experienced population growth. 55 out of the 88 counties in Ohio decreased in population.

Some communities in our county who saw increases in their populations and number of housing units include the City of Willoughby who saw the greatest increase with 1,327 people, followed by Concord Township with 1,063 people, and Painesville City with 749 people added. The number of housing units in Lake County increased by 4,113 to a total of 105,315 units reflecting a 4.06% increase although the number of new housing units has slowed since 2010. Back then, new units had increased by about 8%. The lower number of units for the 2020 census can be traced back to the housing bubble bursting in 2008 and we also did not recover from

the Great Recession until around 2013. Willoughby was the city that added the largest number of new housing units with an increase of 888 units, followed by the City of Mentor with 856 units, Concord Township with 580 units, and Painesville City with 490 units.

*For more information on the 2020 Census, feel free to contact the Lake County Planning & Community Development Department at (440) 350-2740 or visit [lakecountyohio.gov/census](http://lakecountyohio.gov/census).* ■

## SIREN SYSTEM *(Continued)*

This network of 109 sirens can be activated to alert anyone outdoors in the county when there is a possible danger such as a chemical emergency, a natural or manmade disaster, or a national security issue. People who hear the siren should proceed indoors and turn on a television or radio to listen for more specific information.

The siren system is tested quarterly on the second Wednesday of January, April, July, and October. Often, we get inquiries from residents that want to know why they cannot hear the siren inside their home or business. The audible siren system is designed, tested, and documented to ensure advanced warning to people outside, who are away from other alerting sources, throughout the entire area of Lake County.

*If you have any questions or need more information about Lake County's notification systems, please call 440-350-5499 or e-mail [ema@lakecountyohio.gov](mailto:ema@lakecountyohio.gov).* ■

	2000		2010		2020	
	Population	Housing Units	Population	Housing Units	Population	Housing Units
Concord Township	15,282	5,896	18,201	7,453	19,254	8,033
Eastlake	20,255	8,269	18,577	8,280	17,670	8,391
Fairport Harbor Village	3,180	1,546	3,109	1,677	3,108	1,661
Grand River Village	345	116	399	176	394	189
Kirtland City	6,670	2,558	6,866	2,716	6,937	2,781
Kirtland Hills Village	597	243	646	272	692	278
Lakeline Village	165	70	226	104	216	104
Leroy Township	3,122	1,105	3,253	1,263	3,128	1,271
Madison Township	15,494	6,213	15,693	6,735	15,057	6,823
Madison Village	2,921	1,171	3,184	1,323	3,435	1,434
Mentor City	50,278	19,301	47,159	20,218	47,450	21,074
Mentor-on-the-Lake	8,127	3,405	7,443	3,461	7,131	3,496
North Perry Village	838	316	899	353	915	351
Painesville	17,503	6,928	19,563	7,867	20,312	8,359
Painesville Township	15,037	6,114	16,891	7,109	16,951	7,361
Perry Township	6,220	2,189	6,449	2,469	6,345	2,486
Perry Village	1,195	438	1,663	630	1,602	635
Timberlake Village	775	320	675	307	629	307
Waite Hill Village	446	197	471	217	543	234
Wickliffe	13,484	5,787	12,750	5,780	12,652	5,967
Willoughby	22,621	10,708	22,268	11,387	23,595	12,275
Willoughby Hills	8,595	4,299	9,485	4,929	10,019	5,134
Willowick	14,361	6,292	14,171	6,476	14,204	6,671
<b>Lake County total</b>	<b>227,511</b>	<b>93,487</b>	<b>230,041</b>	<b>101,202</b>	<b>232,603</b>	<b>105,315</b>